

REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF CHILDREN'S GUARDIANS

OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA,

For the Year Ending March 31,

1895.

Members of the Board.

REV. NATHANIEL A. HYDE.
MR. FRANK W. FLANNER.
MR. CHARLES F. COFFIN.

MRS. JULIA H. GOODHART.
MRS. ANNA C. REAUME.
MRS. AUGUSTA SEVERIN.

Officers.

PRESIDENT, REV. NATHANIEL A. HYDE.
VICE-PRESIDENT,
SECRETARY AND TREASURER, MRS. JULIA H. GOODHART.


ATTORNEY FOR THE BOARD, MR. EVANS WOOLLEN.
VISITING AGENT, MR. J. FRANK WRIGHT.
SPECIAL OFFICER, MR. ALBERT C. ELSTER.
MATRON OF THE HOME, MISS MOLLIE H. TALGE.

OFFICE OF THE BOARD, ROOM NO. 1, PLYMOUTH BUILDING, INDIANAPOLIS.

INDIANAPOLIS:

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1895.



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REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF CHILDREN'S GUARDIANS
OF MARION COUNTY
FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 1895.

To the Hon. Edgar A. Brown, Judge of the Marion Circuit Court:

Time brings few changes in the work of this Board. It must go on so long as unfortunate children are victims of cruel treatment and their conditions doom them to a debased, vicious life. The experience of the year just closed has furnished new evidence of the need and the value of this child-saving agency. Those who are not conversant with the operations of the Board of Children's Guardians can have but a very imperfect idea of the sad condition of the class of children it is laboring to save. It is almost incredible that any parents can become so degraded, so hardened by poverty and drink, that they can keep their children amid vile, corrupting influences, which are certain to be their ruin unless some beneficent agency comes to their rescue. Yet many such parents are found.

If a child is suffering for the want of necessary food and clothing every human instinct prompts us to provide immediate relief. Is not the appeal to our sympathy really stronger, when a child is found practically imprisoned in the contagion of the vilest associations, which deprive it of all chance for a respectable, happy life?

The state is interested in the case because it sees in such a child a new recruit to be added to the vicious and criminal classes; hence, for its own protection, as

well as the salvation of the child, the Board of Guardians is sent forth on its beneficent mission.

It is gratifying to the members of the Board that the public is coming to a better understanding and approval of its purpose and methods. They are glad also to acknowledge the support their work has generally received from the city press.

THE CHILDREN'S HOME.

The Children's Home, located on Prospect street, has proved to be a most valuable addition to the working facilities of the Board. While it is not intended to be a permanent home for children, the work of the Board can not be carried on successfully without such a receiving place, where children can be kept and trained until suitable homes can be found for them.

The building is usually crowded to its full capacity. The number of children has averaged, during the year, at least 35. At the present time there are 44 children in the institution. An enlargement of the building is greatly needed; more sleeping accommodations are especially demanded. The Board entertains the hope that the County Commissioners will provide this improvement during the coming year.

Miss Talge, the matron, has been allowed some additional assistance on account of the increased number of children to be cared for.

The School Board continues to supply a capable teacher for the children in the Home. The discipline as well as the instruction which this school affords are a very great benefit to the children, as some of them have never been to school before. The teacher at the present time is Miss Belle Carroll.

PERMANENT HOMES IN THE COUNTRY.

The policy of placing children in good homes in the country as soon as practicable is still pursued by the Board. Great care is taken to find families that will give the wards of the Board a genuine home welcome. Our Visiting Agent, Mr. J. Frank Wright, makes thorough investigation of all applicants, and it is a fixed rule of the Board not to commit a child to the keeping of a family until it is convinced by reliable information that the child will receive kind treatment and a good moral training, and have, also, the privileges of a common school education during the school age.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

Religious services are conducted at the Home every Sunday by members of the Memorial Church Sunday-school and others.

Dr. Stilson and Dr. Dan Thompson, of the City Dispensary, have given their professional services free of charge.

Dr. Marsee has attended to an important surgical case gratuitously.

An entertainment was furnished to the children at the Home on Christmas by members of the Board and other friends.

The Charity Organization Society has furnished women for laundry work and as seamstresses.

Miss Susie R. Rhorer has continued a subscription for the *Youths' Companion*, and has furnished other reading matter for the Home.

Mr. Charles Martindale has supplied a Sunday-school periodical.

The usual favors of annual passes for our Visiting Agent have been granted by railroad officials.

REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 1895.

No. cases investigated by Board.....	157
No. cases rejected for want of evidence.....	114
No. petitions filed.....	32
Returned to Rose Orphan Asylum.....	1
Returned to Indianapolis Orphan Asylum.....	1
Returned to Children's Aid Society.....	3
Returned to Soldiers' and Sailors' Asylum.....	1
Non-residents returned.....	5
	<hr/> 157
No. children involved in investigation.....	262
No. children rejected for want of evidence.....	182
No. children involved in petitions.....	58
No. children placed without trial.....	11
Returned to Rose Orphan Asylum.....	1
Returned to Indianapolis Orphan Asylum.....	1
Returned to Children's Aid Society.....	3
Returned to Soldiers' and Sailors' Asylum.....	1
Non-residents returned.....	5
	<hr/> 262
No. petitions filed.....	32
No. children given to Board.....	28
No. children returned to parents by court.....	4
	<hr/> 32
No. children involved in petitions.....	58
No. children given to Board.....	28
No. children returned to parents by court.....	4
No. children not finally disposed of.....	15
No. children placed without trial.....	11
	<hr/> 58
No. children given to Board.....	28
No. children on trial.....	5
No. children adopted.....	3
No. children in the Home.....	20
	<hr/> 28
No. previously given to Board, but adopted this year....	6
No. previously given to Board, but indentured this year..	10
Applications for children.....	115

SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE BOARD.

No. cases investigated.....	710
No. children involved.....	1,308
No. children given to Board since organization.....	229
No. children placed in families and adopted.....	26
No. children placed in families and indentured.....	60
No. children placed in families still on trial.....	42
Sent to School for Feeble Minded.....	5
Placed temporarily in Home at Westfield.....	4
Placed temporarily in St. Joseph's Industrial.....	3
Placed temporarily in Sisters Good Shepherd.....	4
Attending Institution for Deaf and Dumb.....	1
Returned to relatives by court.....	9
Returned to relatives by Board.....	7
Married.....	1
Died.....	12
Not found by officer but given to Board.....	3
Attained majority.....	6
Boarding in country.....	4
Run away.....	10
In Children's Home.....	32
	<hr style="width: 10%; margin-left: 0;"/>

TREASURER'S REPORT

FOR YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 1895.

Receipts.

April 1, 1894.

To Balance	\$1,019 14
Donations	13 25
Dime S. & L. Account, Nora Bannon	28 00
County Commissioners	5,729 67
Charity Organization	337 00
	\$7,127 06

Expenditures.

Matron	\$420 00
Special officer, one-third salary	244 62
Agent's salary	590 00
Agent's expense	240 00
Domestics	500 50
Attorney	304 20
Car fare, official visits	10 25
Car fare, children for medical care	32 45
Physician \$1.50, dental material \$6.25	7 75
Board of children in country	788 35
Printing and advertising	68 15
Telephone	71 01
Water	75 00
Ice	16 20
Building and repairs	128 88
Dime S. & L. Account, Nora Bannon	28 00
Screens for Home	69 25
Vault, cleaning	65 00
Sewing	18 40
Clothing and dry goods	864 03
Drugs	25 05
Bread	72 60
Milk	292 21
Meat and groceries	829 13
House-furnishing	85 35
Washing	73 15
Fuel	38 00
Plumbing	107 72
Christmas entertainment	8 35
Electric bell \$4.50, labor at Home \$10. 50	15 05
Repairs to shoes	8 75
2 loads sand	1 00
200 paper wrappers	2 20
Vaccine points	3 10
Officer's trip to Lafayette	5 95
Cleaning filter	2 50
Song-books	90
Transfer	5 00
Miscellaneous	9 67
Balance	999 34
April 1, 1895.	\$7,127 06

Respectfully submitted,
JULIA H. GOODHART, *Treasurer.*